

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2136 without my signature.

I appreciate the efforts to develop a sliding fee scale to enhance the ability of narcotic treatment providers to provide medical treatment for the addicted population; however, this bill would give providers veto authority over a judge in deciding when to discontinue narcotic replacement therapy.

I encourage the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to work with the Legislature next year to find a solution which addresses the medical needs of this population without infringing upon the duties of the judiciary to decide the appropriate disposition of a defendant or probationer undergoing narcotic replacement treatment.

For these reasons I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger